

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4489

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INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS 5605

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 3 USNATO 6091

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, MPOL, NATO, PFOR

SUBJ: BRIEFING ON NOVEMBER 5 EUROGROUP MINISTERIAL MEETING
IN THE HAGUE

REF: (A) USNATO 6043 DTG 061720Z NOV 75

(B) USNATO 5772 DTG 231511Z OCT 75

(C) USNATO 6040 DTG 061621Z NOV 75(NOTAL)

SUMMARY: KILLICK (UK) BRIEFED US NOV 7 ON THE HIGHLIGHTS OF
THE NOV 5 EUROGROUP MINISTERIAL MEETING IN THE HAGUE.
EUROGROUP'S PRIMARY ACCOMPLISHMENT WAS AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE
TO ESTABLISH A EUROPEAN DEFENSE PROCUREMENT SECRETARIAT
AND A PROGRAM GOUP TO DEVELOP PROPOSALS ON FURTHER POSITIONS
AND NECESSARY MACHINERY TO ADVANCE EUROPEAN INTERESTS IN
THE TWO-WAY STREET AND IN LONGER RANGE ASPECTS OF COOPERATION
IN ARMAMENTS. EUROGROUP HAS MADE IT CLEAR TO FRANCE THAT
THIS WORK WILL BE OUTSIDE THE EUROGROUP FRAMEWORK, AND IN
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THIS WAY, HOPES THAT FRANCE WILL BE BROUGHT TO JOIN. THOUGH
RECOGNIZING COMMENDABLE ASPECTS OF EUROGROUP INITIATIVE,
WE SEE IN IT SEEDS OF POSSIBLE DEVELOPMENT OF BI-POLARITY
BETWEEN EUROPE AND US IN WHICH NATO'S ROLE COULD BE DIMINISHED,

AND WE ALSO DISCERN EUROGROUP IMPULSE TO ATTENUATE CONCEPT OF FAIR COMPETITION IN FAVOR OF EUROPEAN PROTECTIONISM AND CARTELIZATION. IN RESPONDING TO EUROGROUP EFFORT, WE WOULD PROPOSE THAT US REGISTER THESE AND OTHER CONCERNS WASHINGTON MAY HAVE IN LINE WITH OUR POLICY OF KEEPING STANDARDIZATION AND ARMAMENTS PROCUREMENT QUESTIONS SQUARELY IN THE NATO CONTEXT. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON GUIDANCE. END SUMMARY.

1. KILLICK OPENED BRIEFING BY NOTING THAT NAC WOULD ALSO RECEIVE A BRIEFING ON NOV 5 EUROGROUP MINISTERIAL MEETING AND THAT THIS INFORMATION FLOW WAS A "CONDITION" TO THE EUROGROUP'S WORK. HOWEVER, HE FELT THAT NAC BRIEFING WOULD HAVE TO BE HANDLED WITH CARE BECAUSE A GOOD DEAL OF EUROGROUP'S DISCUSSIONS HAD CENTERED ON THE FRENCH QUESTION. HE INDICATED THAT NAC BRIEFING WOULD BE HELD SOON BUT COULD NOT CONFIRM THAT IT WOULD TAKE PLACE ON NOV 12, WHEN NAC WILL NEXT CONSIDER STANDARDIZATION.

2. TURNING TO EUROGROUP MINISTERIAL MEETING ITSELF, KILLICK REPORTED THAT IT CENTERED ON PAPERS WHICH HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED OVER THE PAST FEW MONTHS. THE MOST IMPORTANT OF THESE WAS A LENGTHY REPORT ON THE SUBJECT OF EUROPEAN/NORTH AMERICAN COOPERATION IN DEFENSE PROCUREMENT. KILLICK SAID THIS PAPER WAS FOUNDED ON THE PREMISES THAT STANDARDIZATION WOULD BE ENHANCED BY INTER-EUROPEAN COOPERATION IN DEFENSE PROCURMENT AND THAT THERE WAS A NEED TO ESTABLISH A BETTER BALANCE IN ARMAMENTS EXCHANGE BETWEEN NORTH AMERICA AND EUROPE. IN ALL THIS, THE AIM WOULD BE FAIR COMPETITION ALTHOUGH KILLICK NOTED THAT SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES IN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES MAY AT TIMES DEFLECT THIS AIM. SPEAKING FRANKLY, HE INDICATED THAT THE EUROGROUP RECOGNIZED THAT A "DEGREE OF PROTECTIONISM" WOULD BE REQUIRED TO MAINTAIN AND BUILD A EUROPEAN DEFENSE INDUSTRIAL BASE. ON THIS POINT, CHARGE REMINDED KILLICK OF US VIEW OPPOSING CARTELIZATION AND ASKED IF EUROGROUP MINISTERS HAD DISCUSSED PRINCIPLES OF THE TYPE WE BELIEVE THE NAC SHOULD DEVELOP. KILLICK REPLIED IN THE CONFIDENTIAL

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NEGATIVE, ALTHOUGH HE NOTED THAT EUROGROUP REPORT COVERED GENERAL GUIDELINES WHICH WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR INCLUSION IN PRINCIPLES. CHARGE REMARKED THAT IN OUR VIEW, A PRINCIPLE ON FAIR COMPETITION WOULD BE ESSENTIAL. KILLICK REPLIED THAT THE POSSIBLE CONFLICT BETWEEN ESTABLISHING A "EUROPEAN PILLAR" VERSUS THE CONCEPT OF FAIR COMPETITION POSES A "DILEMMA".

3. ON THE "TWO-WAY STREET", EUROGROUP MINISTERS AGREED ON THE NEED TO ESTABLISH A DIALOGUE WITH NORTH AMERICAN WITH A VIEW TOWARD INCREASING THE TRAFIC, BUT NO LONGER FAVORED "TARGET FIGURES" FOR PURCHASES ON BOTH SIDES OF THE ATLANTIC. THE IDEA OF AN EQUIPMENT LIST FOR THE US TO CONSIDER WILL

BE PURSUED, ALTHOUGH KILICK REPORTED THAT THE FRG DOES NOT
RPT NOT DESIRE TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS EXERCISE. HE WAS
NOT CERTAIN WHY FRG DEFENSE MINISTER LEBER WAS AGAINST THIS
LIST BUT SAID THAT OTHER NATIONS SO DESIRING WILL SUBMIT
ITEMS FOR THE US TO CONSIDER PURCHASING. KILICK CHARACTERIZED
THIS EFFORT AS "PUMP PRIMING" AND DID NOT SEE WHY IT SHOULD
ADVERSELY AFFECT OTHER, LONGER RANGE WORK. IN ANY CASE,
IT WILL REQUIRE SOME FORM OF MONITORING MECHANISM.

4. KILICK TOUCHED ON SEVERAL OTHER ASPECTS OF DISCUSSIONS
IN THE HAGUE INCLUDING.

A. THIRD WORLD SALES--MINISTERS LEFT THIS QUESTION OPEN
FOR THE TIME BEING.

B. NEED FOR A PROPER COMPENSATING DEVICE APPLICABLE TO
BOTH THE INTER-EUROPEAN CONTEXT AND RELATIONS WITH NORTH
AMERICA.

C. NEED TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE POSITIONS OF NATIONS
WITHOUT A SIGNIFICANT DEFENSE PRODUCTION CAPABILITY.

D. STANDARDIZATION SHOULD BE PURSUED FROM "BELOW" (PARTS
AND COMPONENTS AS WELL AS "ABOVE" (COMPLETE WEAPONS SYSTEMS).

E. HARMONIZATION OF MILITARY CONCEPTS AND DOCTRINES MUST
BE BASED ON ALLIANCE-WIDE REQUIREMENTS (MOD LEBER HAD INSISTED
ON ENSURING THAT THE MAJOR NATO COMMANDERS TAKE THE LEAD IN
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THIS AREA).

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INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS 5606
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5. CONCERNING CONCRETE DECISIONS CONTEMPLATED BY THE EUROGROUP MINISTERS, KILLICK NOTED THAT IT WAS NOT REPEATED NOT AGREED TO ESTABLISH A "EUROPEAN DEFENSE PROCUREMENT ORGANIZATION". INSTEAD, MINISTERS AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO ESTABLISH A "EUROPEAN DEFENSE PROCUREMENT SECRETARIAT" WHOSE TERMS OF REFERENCE WOULD BE WORKED OUT IN TIME FOR THE EUROGROUP MINISTERS TO CONSIDER WHEN THEY MEET IN DECEMBER. THIS SECRETARIAT WOULD NOT BE A POLICY ORGANIZATION BUT INSTEAD WOULD CONSIST OF PRESENT EURONAD'S AND PROVIDE STAFF SERVICES IN DEVELOPING EQUIPMENT SCHEDULES, ETC. IN ADDITION, MINISTERS APPROVED ESTABLISHING ANOTHER "FORUM" (INDEPENDENT PROGRAM GROUP, REF A) OF SENIOR OFFICIALS FROM CAPITALS WHICH WOULD BE OUTSIDE EUROGROUP FRAMEWORK AND THEREFORE WOULD FACILITATE FRENCH PARTICIPATION. KILLICK INDICATED THAT THE SECRETARIAT ALSO WOULD SUPPORT THIS GROUP.

6. SUMMING UP THE EUROGROUP MEETING, KILLICK EMPHASIZED (1) THE DESIRE TO HARMONIZE EUROGROUP'S WORK WITH THAT OF THE CONFIDENTIAL

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ALLIANCE AS A WHOLE; (2) THE NEED TO INVOLVE FRANCE ON BOTH A EUROPEAN AND AN ALLIANCE BASIS; (3) THE NEED TO DEVELOP A EUROPEAN ORGANIZATION TO ACT AS AN INTERLOCUTOR WITH NORTH AMERICA.

7. KILLICK THEN DISCUSSED FACTORS IN THE BACKGROUND OF THE OVERALL EUROGROUP EFFORT. HE NOTED THAT SOME NATIONS, ESPECIALLY BELGIUM, WISHED TO CONCENTRATE ON THE "EUROPEAN END OF THE TRANSATLANTIC DIALOGUE BEFORE GOING TO THE US WITH PROPOSALS OR SHOPPING LISTS. IN THIS REGARD, THE BASIC PURPOSE MUST NOT BE TO SATISFY NATIONAL NEEDS BUT TO FURTHER THE EUROPEAN APPROACH. KILLICK ALSO NOTED THAT SYG LUNS HAD EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE CONCERN ABOUT THIS WHOLE EUROGROUP EFFORT. LUNS WAS WORRIED ABOUT (1) WHERE THE SECRETARIAT AND PROGRAM GROUP WOULD BE LOCATED; (2) WHY THE SECRETARIAT WAS EVEN NECESSARY WHEN ASYG TUCKER AND HIS DEFENSE SUPPORT DIVISION HAVE THE SAME RESPONSIBILITY; (3) IF FRANCE PARTICIPATES IN THE PROGRAM GROUP, WE FACE THE DANGER OF HAVING ONE ALLIANCE WITH TWO STRATEGIES; AND (4) THE US WAS BOUND TO BE DISMAYED AT THE EUROPE-FIRST THRUST OF THIS APPROACH. KILLICK DID NOT SEE WHY LUNS WAS WORRIED AND HAD TRIED TO REASSURE HIM THAT NO DIMINUTION OF NATO WAS INTENDED. CHARGE NOTED THAT LUNS HAD ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN TO HIM ON NOV 6, AND CHARGE HAD TOLD LUNS THAT US

BELIEVES THAT NATO SHOULD NOT BE DIMINISHED. CHARGE ALSO NOTED HE HAD MADE SAME POINT TO AMB DE STAERCKE (BELGIUM) IN A SEPARATE CONVERSATION WHERE DE STAERCKE HAD OUTLINED EUROGROUP MEETING RESULTS. KILLICK SEEMED RELIEVED THAT CHARGE HAD NOT EXPRESSED CONCERN TO LUNS ABOUT RESULTS OF EUROGROUP MEETING AND OBSERVED THAT EUROGROUP WAS GOING AHEAD WITH OR WITHOUT FRANCE, ALTHOUGH FRANCE WOULD ALWAYS HAVE THE OPTION OF PARTICIPATING LATER IF NOT SOONER.

8. DURING A BRIEF QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD FOLLOWING THE BRIEFING, DEFAD NOTED THAT THE US, FRANCE, EUROGROUP AND NATO AT THE FIFTEEN ALL WRE KEY ACTORS. HE ASKED KILLICK HOW HE SAW THESE VARYING EFFORTS JOINING. KILLICK WAS UNABLE TO ANSWER, NOTING THAT THIS QUESTION CANNOT BE RESOLVED UNTIL FRANCE REPLIES TO THE EUROGROUP INITIATIVE. EVEN THEN, IF THE FRENCH IMPOSE DIFFICULT CONDITIONS, EUROGROUP WILL PROCEED WITHOUT THEM. IN THIS REGARD, KILLICK SAID THAT FRENCH
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INSISTENCE ON, FOR EXAMPLE, BASING THE PROGRAM GROUP IN PARIS WOULD BE "TOUGH TO SWALLOW". DEFAD RETURNED TO HIS QUESTION, ASKING IF UK SAW THE NAC AS A FORUM WHERE US, EUROGROUP, ETC. VIEWS COULD BE CONSIDERED. KILLICK REPLIED "YES, IF FRANCE WILL JOIN IN PREPARING THE EUROPEAN APPROACH".

9. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION FROM CHARGE, KILLICK AGREED THAT EUROGROUP O SOME EXTENT HAS MOVED AWAY FROM THE SHOPPING LIST IDEA TOWARD CONSIDERATION OF PRINCIPLES. HOWEVER, EARLY PROGRESS IN THIS EFFORT WILL BE COMPLICATED BY FRANCE'S UNCERTAIN POSITION, THE FACT THAT CNAD PRINCIPLES AND EUROGROUP PRINCIPLES OF EQUIPMENT COLLABORATION ALREADY HAVE BEEN AGREED, AND THE FACT THAT EUROPEAN NATIONS HVE DIVERSE ECONOMIES AND DEFENSE INDUSTRIES. CHARGE EMPHASIZED THAT THE US BELIEVES THAT THESE DIFFICULT ISSUES CAN BEST BE ADDRESSED WHEN THE NAC OR ITS AD HOC COMMITTEE BEGINS TO DRAFT PRINCIPLES, WHEN, IN OUR VIEW, SHOULD BEGIN SOON. KILLICK SAID THE UK AGREES WITH THIS BUT OBSERVED THAT THE UK HAS FOUND IT "NOT ALWAYS EASY TO CARRY ALONG ONE'S EUROPEAN PARTNERS--AS YOU WELL KNOW".

10. AT THIS POINT, KILLICK HAD TO LEAVE THE DUSCUSSION, REMARKING THAT HE HAD AN APPOINTMENT WITH DE STAERCKE ON THE SAME SUBJECT. CHARGE THEN ASKED A FINAL QUESTION OF UK DEFENSE ADVISOR PETERS: WAS EUROGROUP GOAL THE EVOLUTION OF A BLOC OF EUROPEANS FACING NORTH AMERICA RATHER THAN ALL ALLIES WORKING TOGETHER UNDER NATO AUSPICES? PETERS AVOIDED A DIRECT ANSWER, NOTING THAT THIS SENSITIVE ISSUE WAS ONE OF CONCERN TO MANY IN THE EUROGROUP.

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11. IN SEPARATE DISCUSSION ON NOVEMBER 6 DEPUTY DEFAD RECEIVED A LESS FORMAL DEBRIEF ON EUROGROUP MINISTERIAL MEETING FROM FRG DEFAD (BG SCHUNEMANN). SCHUNEMANN CHARACTERIZED THE UK AS BEING EAGER TO DEVELOP THE TWO-WAY STREET AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, THEREAS OTHERS PLACED EMPHASIS ON FIRST DEVELOPING EUROPEAN POSITIONS ON PRINCIPLES. ALTHOUGH EUROGROUP AGREED TO DEVELOP A SHOPPING LIST QUICKLY, THE FRG DECLINED TO PARTICIPATE BECAUSE THE FRG BELIEVED THE US WAS ALREADY AWARE OF EXISTING AND PLANNED EUROPEAN SYSTEMS. CONSEQUENTLY, EFFORTS TO PUSH ANY SHOPPING LIST WOULD INESCAPABLY APPEAR TO BE NOTHING MORE THAN A "EUROPEAN SELLING EFFORT". THE FRG IS MORE INTERESTED IN STREAMLINING EUROPEAN DEFENSE INDUSTRIES AND REGARDS AN INITIAL SALES APPROACH AS DESIGNED TO PROTECT UNDER-UTILIZED AND INEFFICIENT ARMS PRODUCERS. SCHUNEMANN THOUGHT THE UK ACCEPTED THE EUROPEAN DEFENSE PROCUREMENT SECRETARIAT ONLY RELUCTANTLY, AND ONLY TO PRESERVE AN APPEARANCE OF CONSENSUS IN SPITE OF UK FOCUS ON IMMEDIATE RETURN VICE THE MORE DISTANT FUTURE. ACCORDING
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TO SCHUNEMANN, ONLY THE UK, FRG, ITALY, AND THE NETHERLANDS HAD ANYTHING TO SAY IN THE HAGUE, WITH THE LATTER TWO ADDING VERY LITTLE OF SUBSTANCE.

12. CONCERNING STANDARDIZATION DISCUSSIONS IN THE NAC, SCHUNEMANN SAID THAT HE SAW NO REASON WHY EUROGROUP DELIBERATIONS AND DECISIONS SHOULD RETARD AGREEMENT ON A STEERING

GROUP OR PROGRESS UNDER SUCH A GROUP. HE DID INDICATE A CLEAR FRG WILLINGNESS TO ENDORSE THE CREATION OF SUCH A STEERING GROUP, BUT ONLY AFTER CLARIFICATION OF ITS MISSION AND AUTHORITY. THE EUROPEANS, HE SAID, REGARDED THE CNAD AS INEFFECTIVE IN TERMS OF MESHING POLICY AND TECHNOLOGY; UT AT LEAST THE CNAD SERVES AS A USEFUL CLEARING HOUSE FOR THE EXCHANGE OF TECHNICAL DATA AND PLANS. WHAT THE EUROGROUP MEMBERS WISH TO AVOID, HE SAID, WAS THE CREATION OF A "POLICY" BODY WHICH MIGHT, LIKE THE EWG, GRADUALLY SINK FROM A LEVEL OF HIGH POLICY PARTICIPATION TO A LEVEL WHERE POLICY ISSUES ARE EXAMINED BY INDIVIDUALS WITH TOO LITTLE INFLUENCE ON POLICY OUTCOMES.

13. COMMENT: THRUST OF CURRENT EUROGROUP EFFORTS MAY LEAD TO A BI-POLAR APPROACH TO ARMAMENTS PRODUCTION MATTERS TO THE POTENTIAL DETRIMENT OF AN ALLIANCE-WIDE APPROACH. KILLICK'S REMARKS ABOUT LIMITATIONS ON FAIR COMPETITION AND THE NEED FOR A DEGREE OF PROTECTIONISM FOR EUROPEAN INDUSTRIES ALSO ARE OF CONCERN BECAUSE THESE WOULD DEROGATE FROM MILITARY AND COST EFFECTIVENESS CRITERIA. MOREOVER, IT IS POSSIBLE TO INFER FROM KILLICK'S REMARKS THAT NAC COULD BE RELEGATED TO BROKERING BETWEEN NORTH AMERICA AND THE EUROPEANS ORGANIZED IN A NEW ENTITY.

14. BECAUSE THE PRIMARY FUNCTION OF THE EUROGROUP AS WELL BELIEVE US HAD TENDED TO SEE IT HAS BEEN TO RATIONALIZE EUROPEAN DEFENSE EFFORTS AND INDUSTRIES, LUNS' WORRY ABOUT THIS NEW EUROGROUP ROLE DETRACTING FROM NATO'S EFFORTS IN THE SAME FIELD MAY HAVE SOME MOMENT. WE KNOW THAT ASYG TUCKER ALSO SEES A REAL NEED TO BRING EUROGROUP WORK, WHICH IS COMMENDABLE IN MANY RESPECTS, INTO CONTEXT.

15. MOREOVER, IN TAKING ISSUE WITH THE UK SHOPPING LIST APPROACH, THE FRG HAS INJECTED A DEGREE OF REALISM INTO EUROCONFIDENTIAL

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GROUP'S EFFORTS. THE FRG, WE BELIEVE, WILL WANT TO KEEP NATO AS THE PRIMARY FOCUS OF ARMAMENTS WORK AND SEES EUROGROUP'S PRIMARY ROLE AS REATIONALIZATION OF EUROPEAN DEFENSE INDUSTRIES. ON THE OTHER HAND, A NUMBER IN THE EUROGROUP PROBABLY SEE IN THE PRESENT SITUATION AN OPPORTUNITY TO BRING FRANCE BACK INTO THE EUROPEAN, IF NOT NATO, FOLD, DESPITE THE ADVERSE IMPACT AN ENHANCED EUROGROUP MIGHT HAVE ON NATO STANDARDIZATION EFFORTS.

16. IN RESPONDING TO THE EUROGROUP'S EFFORTS, WE BELIEVE THAT THE US SHOULD REGISTER CONCERNS ABOUT POSSIBLE BIPOLARIZATION, EUROPEAN CARTELIZATION, AND DIMINUTION OF NATO'S CENTRAL ROLE IN ALLIANCE EFFORTS TO IMPROVE STANDARDIZATION. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON GUIDANCE. END COMMENT. STREATOR

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